

Amendments to the Claims

These claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A radio communication system having physical control channels arranged for the bi-directional transmission of sets of control information between a secondary station and a plurality of primary stations, wherein respective closed-loop power control means are provided for individually adjusting the power of some or all physical control channels, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped, said closed-loop power control means being utilized to select a subset of primary stations greater than one primary station, selected from the plurality of primary stations, for the transmission of data over at least one data channel between the selected subset of primary stations and the secondary station, ~~and means are provided for transmitting each set of uplink control information in a time-multiplexed manner over a single physical channel by reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands in proportion to a number greater than or equal to the number of primary stations with which sets of control information are exchanged, and by further reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands by gating off the physical control channel.~~

2. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that further comprising means are provided for encoding each downlink physical control channel, or part thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped with a respective scrambling code to enable the associated primary station to be identified.

3. (currently amended) A ~~The~~ system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising means ~~are provided~~ for transmitting power control commands relating to each downlink physical control channel, or part thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped via the single time-multiplexed uplink physical channel.

4. (currently amended) A ~~The~~ system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising means responsive to requests from the secondary station ~~are provided~~ for selecting the primary station connected to the ~~or each~~ data channel.

5. (currently amended) A ~~The~~ system as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising means ~~are provided~~ for establishing a plurality of communication links between a primary station and the secondary station, for determining which of the primary stations comprise selected primary stations, and for determining which of the communication links are selected.

6. (currently amended) A primary station for use in a radio communication system having physical control channels arranged for the bi-directional transmission of sets of control information between a secondary station and a plurality of primary stations, and at least one data channel between a selected subset of primary stations greater than one primary station, selected from the plurality of primary stations, and the secondary station for the transmission of data over the at least one data channel, wherein closed-loop power control means are provided for adjusting the power of some or all physical control channels between the plurality of primary stations and the secondary station, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is

mapped, said closed-loop power control means being utilized to select the subset of primary stations, and means are provided for transmitting each set of uplink control information in a time multiplexed manner over a single physical channel by reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands in proportion to a number greater than or equal to the number of primary stations with which sets of control information are exchanged, and by further reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands by gating off the physical control channel.

7. (currently amended) A The primary station as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that further comprising means are provided for acquiring or releasing a data channel in response to changing radio link conditions; thereby becoming or ceasing to become or cease to be a selected primary station.

8. (currently amended) A The primary station as claimed in claim 6, characterised in that further comprising means are provided for determining operational parameters of the data channel depending on the power level of a physical control channel, or part thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped.

9. (currently amended) A The primary station as claimed in claim 8, characterised in that wherein the operational parameters are at least one of modulation and/or and coding schemes.

10. (currently amended) A secondary station for use in a radio communication system having physical control channels arranged for the bi-directional transmission of sets of control information between the secondary station and a plurality of primary stations, and at least one

data channel between a selected subset of primary stations greater than one primary station, selected from the plurality of primary stations, and the secondary station for the transmission of data over the at least one data channel, wherein closed-loop power control means are provided for adjusting individually the power of some or all physical control channels between the plurality of primary stations and secondary station, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped, said closed-loop power control means being utilized to select the subset of primary stations, and means are provided for transmitting each set of uplink control information in a time-multiplexed manner over a single physical channel by reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands in proportion to a number greater than or equal to the number of primary stations with which sets of control information are exchanged, and by further reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands by gating off the physical control channel.

11. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising means are provided for determining which of the primary stations comprise the selected primary station or stations in response to changing radio link conditions.

12. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising means are provided for transmitting each set of uplink control information over a separate physical channel.

13. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim 12, characterised in that further comprising means ~~are provided~~ for distinguishing the physical channels by use of different channelisation codes.

14. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim 12, characterised in that further comprising means ~~are provided~~ for distinguishing two of the physical channels by transmitting a first physical channel which uses the in-phase component of the carrier and a second physical channel which uses the quadrature-phase component of the carrier.

15. (Original) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim 14, characterised in that further comprising means ~~are provided~~ for interrupting an uplink physical control channel when uplink data transmission is required.

16 – 18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The secondary station as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 10, characterised in that further comprising means ~~are provided~~ for achieving the time-multiplexing by including separate power control relating to each primary station with which sets of control information are exchanged in a single physical control channel.

20. (currently amended) A method of operating a radio communication system, comprising:
~~having~~ arranging physical control channels ~~arranged~~ for the bi-directional transmission of sets of control information between a secondary station and a plurality of primary stations; ~~and~~

arranging at least one data channel between a selected subset of primary stations greater than one primary station, selected from the plurality of primary stations, and the secondary station for the transmission of data over the at least one data channel;~~the method comprising:~~

operating respective closed-loop power control means for adjusting individually the power of some or all physical control channels, or parts thereof, to which a set of control information is mapped to select the subset of primary stations;~~and~~

~~transmitting each set of control information in a time-multiplexed manner over a single physical channel by reducing a rate of transmission of power control commands in proportion to a number greater than or equal to a number of primary stations with which sets of control information are exchanged, and by further reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands by gating off the physical control channel.~~

21 – 24. (canceled)

25. (new) The secondary station according to claim 10, further comprising means for transmitting each set of uplink control information time-multiplexed over a single physical channel.

26. (new) The secondary station according to claim 25, further comprising means for achieving the time-multiplexing by reducing the rate of transmission of power control commands.

27. (new) The secondary station according to claim 26, wherein the reduction in rate is in proportion to a number greater than or equal to the number of primary stations with which sets of control information are exchanged.